

REMARKS

Claims 7-16 are allowed. Claims 2, 3 and 5 are "objected to".

Claim 2 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Claims 1 and 3-16 are now pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. OBJECTION OF CLAIMS 2, 3 AND 5:

As mentioned above, claim 2 has been cancelled and the limitations thereof have been incorporated into independent claim 1, from which "objected to" claims 3 and 5 depend. Therefore, claims 3 and 5 are now in condition for allowance. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to claims 3 and 5 is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY MASAMICHI (JAPANESE PUBLICATION NO. 04098387):

As mentioned above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Therefore, claims 1 and 6 are now in condition for allowance. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 6 is respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIM 4 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER MASAMICHI:

Claim 4 depends from independent claim 1. Therefore, the comments mentioned above in section II, may be applied here.

IV. CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

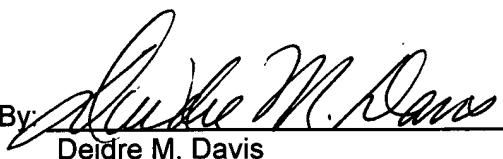
Respectfully submitted,

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August 9, 2005

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